

## ABSTRACT

A system and method for managing shared state using multiple programmed processors within a stateful protocol processing system is disclosed herein. The disclosed method includes receiving a first message of a first flow comprised of a first plurality of messages, and deriving a  
5 first event from the first message. A first flow state characterizing the first flow is then retrieved. A first workspace portion of the first flow is assigned to a first protocol processing core, and a second workspace portion of the flow state is assigned to a second protocol processing core. The method further includes processing the first event using the first and second protocol processing  
10 cores. The first flow state may be defined at least in part by a plurality of protocol layers, in which case the first workspace portion and the second workspace portion correspond to different ones of such layers.

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